

one who mixes ingredients, drugs or medications: a pharmacist

# KĀWILI LĀ'AU

SUMMER 2011



*CELEBRATION ISSUE*

*CoP Gains Full Accreditation*

*First Class Graduates*

Volume 3, Issue 4

# KĀWILI LĀ`AU

SUMMER 2011 | Vol. 3, No. 4

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# KĀWILI LĀ`AU



Summer, 2011 Volume 3, Issue 4

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Kāwili Lā`au is the magazine for the only College of Pharmacy in the Pacific region, at the University of Hawai`i at Hilo



## Dean's Message



A character in one of Hemingway's novels is asked about the way things change. Two ways, he reflects: gradually, then suddenly. Things have changed dramatically around here in just a few short weeks, so much so that we wanted you to pause here with us to reflect on what's happened, on how many small changes have led to several very big ones. We wanted you to see our College of Pharmacy from a new perspective, so we've turned the page,

literally, to reinforce how we in CoP have recently turned many pages ourselves. In this Summer issue of Kāwili Lā'au we celebrate our recent accreditation success, and we celebrate our first class of graduates!

You see that class below, framed in a border of koa wood? They are our first graduates, and I am so very proud of them. The koa's trunk was used by ancient Hawaiians to build their wa'a, their far-voyaging outrigger canoes. When I accepted this position in 2006, I wasn't seeking it out; it found me. Fate or destiny, call it what you will, set me on this voyage. I believe that I was meant to be here, just as I believe that the graduates you now see on the page below were destined for this new College of Pharmacy in the Pacific. I wanted to lead this start-up college because I thought we could, together, transform the campus, the community, the state, the Pacific region, and our whole profession. Now I am sure we have done just that.

These recent graduates are full of promise and very akamai! As

they leave our closely knit College of Pharmacy 'ohana, they will blaze trails wherever their own fate or destiny leads them. In fact, they may have come to a place near you (read about some of their new positions, page 22).

They leave here carrying not only thorough knowledge of their profession but also deep aloha in their hearts -- aloha for their peers and patients. It is evident, and if you look now you can see it too.

This is why I can clearly see our future as a top 25 college of pharmacy in the United States. Transformation looks like this, like these women and men who took a chance and came to us as canvases as vast as our Hilo skies. Now this is history, these canvases, as best as we can color and shape them, are complete. Have we been successful? I think you will all agree on the answer: Yes, we have.

Importantly, others think so too. In late June, after five years of hard, cumulative work by our leadership, our faculty, our staff and our students, our primary goal was met. The national accrediting body for pharmacy schools, the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE), voted to award the College full accreditation for a period of two years. But while this crucial designation should be acknowledged and celebrated across the state, there is still much work to be done -- mainly, achieving our permanent CoP building. We will be working closely with the governor, our legislative delegation, and the UH System to ensure that funds are committed to see this project through. ACPE will be following our progress carefully.

Thank you, readers, for your continued interest and support in our College of Pharmacy. And thank you for helping us celebrate!

Sincerely,

John M. Pezzuto

Professor and Dean



## Accreditation Accomplished



After five years of intensive reviews, the College of Pharmacy at the University of Hawaii at Hilo was granted full accreditation by the national agency for pharmacy schools.

At a June 24 meeting, the Board of Directors of the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE) voted to award UH Hilo College of Pharmacy full accreditation for a period of two years. Continuation will be determined at a future ACPE Board meeting, following a site visit to assess the ongoing progress of the program and facilities.

According to John Pezzuto, who was appointed as dean of the college in 2006, receiving full accreditation at this time was a close call. “We are able to provide a first rate education for our students, but we will not be able to realize our dream of being a top-ranked college of pharmacy until permanent facilities are completed,” he said. “I believe the ACPE took a leap of faith in extending full accreditation as the result of strong commitments for our future development. So our

work is not nearly done. They will be continuously checking on our progress.”

The College becomes the first school of pharmacy in the State of Hawaii and the Pacific region to become fully accredited by ACPE.

“I am very proud of the University’s accomplishment, having been personally involved in the planning for this college from the beginning,” said Sen. Daniel K. Inouye (D-HI) in a letter to the ACPE Board. “Throughout the years since Hilo began its quest, I have been consistently and enthusiastically joined in supporting the College of Pharmacy by my colleagues in the Hawaii Congressional delegation.”

Schools of pharmacy become eligible to be considered for full accreditation after they meet standards set by ACPE and have graduated their first group of students. The first group of 84 doctors of pharmacy (PharmD) graduated from UH Hilo on May 14, 2011.

“We began the process of accreditation before any students were aware we were here,” Dean Pezzuto said. “That was necessary in order to meet ACPE’s rigorous review process, which has been a constant reminder that what we do and how we do it are worthwhile. Even more importantly,

it’s gratifying to know we did not let the students down. All graduates of the College are eligible for professional licensure after passing a national board exam.”

ACPE granted the CoP Pre-Candidate status in June, 2007, and each year the College was required to satisfy a review board during a site visit to Hilo that it met 30 standards of excellence. Key points of evaluation include areas such as curriculum and facilities.

“Faculty and staff at the College of Pharmacy have worked extremely hard to get to this point,” said UH Hilo Chancellor Donald Straney. “But we all know we can’t stop now. We’re doing everything we can do help improve their chances of becoming one of the top 25 schools of pharmacy in the nation.”

ACPE is recognized by the U.S. Department of Education as the national agency for the accreditation of professional degree programs in pharmacy.

## Accreditation Highlights

2000: First discussion of creating a college of pharmacy occurred between legislators, local pharmacists, and the University of Hawaii at Hilo (UHH)

2001: Senator Inouye secures funding to develop a comprehensive long-term strategy for establishing a clinical pharmacy program at UHH

2003: Feasibility study conducted by external consultant

2004: Request submitted to University of Hawaii System for PharmD program at UHH, PharmD program approved in October 2004 by University of Hawaii Board of Regents

2006: Dr. John M. Pezzuto appointed as Founding Dean of the College of Pharmacy at UHH

2007: The CoP achieved the first step in the pharmacy school accreditation process. The Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE) granted the CoP Pre-Candidate Status.

2007: Inaugural class of 90 students enters the CoP

2008: CoP is awarded Candidate Accreditation Status during the June executive board meeting of the ACPE

2009: American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy affirm the CoP’s Candidate Accreditation Status during its Board meeting

2010: ACPE approves continuation of Candidate Accreditation Status

May 14, 2011: Inaugural CoP class graduates

June 2011: ACPE grants Full Accreditation to the UHH CoP

ACPE surveyors from the April site visit to UH Hilo College of Pharmacy included from left to right: Dr. Robert Elenbaas, ACPE Staff Member and Practitioner; Dr. Donald Williams, Practitioner and Former Member, ACPE Board of Directors; Dr. David Allen, Dean, Northeastern Ohio Universities College of Pharmacy; Dr. Elizabeth Putnam, Associate Professor, University of Montana College of Health Professions and Biomedical Sciences, Skaggs School of Pharmacy; Mark Brown, Hawaii State Board of Pharmacy Representative; and Dr. Tina Brock, Professor of Clinical Pharmacy, University of California San Francisco School of Pharmacy.



*The Festivities Begin...*



Inaugural CoP Graduates, Faculty and Staff  
Attending the Celebratory Luncheon at the Hilo Bay Yacht Club



Jessica Toyama, Class President, and Marisa Schroeder,  
announce the first CoP graduate: Tehane Ornellas

The first student to receive her doctorate in pharmacy from the University of Hawaii at Hilo was chosen by her peers not only because of her endurance in the face of adversity, but also because she is an inspiration. Tehane Ornellas from Kula, Maui, was the first of 84 PharmD students from the College of Pharmacy to receive the ceremonial hood at commencement events May 14 at Edith Kanaka'ole Stadium.

A cancer survivor, Ornellas completed the rigorous four-year professional program despite having to undergo several bouts of chemotherapy. Class president Jessica Toyama said Ornellas is an inspiration to her classmates.

"We all recognized that walking on stage to receive the first diploma was going to go down in history, so we had a vote who we thought should go first," Toyama said. "I'm so happy Tehane received the most nominations because it's a way for us to recognize her contribution to our class as a whole."

The honor was announced Thursday, May 12, at a graduation luncheon at Hilo Yacht Club. The event kicked off a three-day celebration of the inaugural class graduating from the only college of pharmacy in the Pacific region.

Also announced at the event was a gift of \$20,000 annually to the College of Pharmacy building fund from Mina Pharmacy owner Hany Guirguis, RPh, Certified Clinical Nutritionist, PhD. (continued)



Mimi Pezzuto (right) presents Jill Gelviro (left) with the  
United States Public Health Service Excellence in Public  
Health Pharmacy Practice Award

"We like having a school of pharmacy in Hawaii so I am committed to trying to help the community and help the students," he said.

The class also honored Judith Fox-Goldstein, UH Hilo Conference Center Director, for her work helping the College and for her gift, which is in honor of her late son, Daniel Fox.

Other awards announced were:

- Cherie Chu, from Kaneohe, Oahu, was given the Mylan Excellence in Pharmacy Award for academic achievement, professional motivation and a demonstrated ability to communicate drug information.
- Jill Gelviro, from Virginia, was presented with the United States Public Health Service Excellence in Public Health Pharmacy Practice Award. This award is given to a student who has demonstrated the development and implementation of programs that advance the goals stated in "Healthy People 2010" and who participates in programs that support the philosophy and goals of the U.S. Public Health Service.



New CoP Graduates:  
Stan Nikitin and Jennifer Zbylski



Hany Guirguis, owner of Mina Pharmacy, signs his  
\$20,000 donation for the CoP Building Fund  
while Dr. Edward Fisher and Liz Heffernan  
smile encouragingly.



Friday, May 13, was a busy day that included the final review for the NAPLEX exam, commencement rehearsal, and a group-photo shoot at Lili'uokalani Gardens (see above), a one-of-a-kind Japanese ornamental garden just off Hilo Bay. CoP faculty (inset), Drs. Aaron Jacobs and Linda Connelly rehearse for graduation.

*The Oath of a Pharmacist: I promise to devote myself  
to a lifetime of service to others through the profession of pharmacy.*

## Later that Evening...

*a family celebration dinner, class gifts, Preceptors of the Year,  
and a toast to remember*

photo by Dr. Anthony D. Wright



Dr. Carolyn Ma greets her audience in preparation of her celebratory address.

Sangha Hall (below), a Hilo community gathering place (complete with stage area, kitchen facilities, and room for 500 people) held more than new graduates on the eve of their formal ceremony: it held a whole 'ohana shaped by the unique challenges and opportunities offered when the new College of Pharmacy was created!

The occasion was made more inspirational by a speech from Dr. Carolyn Ma, associate professor of pharmacy practice, who had been an integral component of the inaugural class's education from beginning to end, in part because of her personal battle for her life due to an accident last year (see our Spring 2011 Kawili La`au for an in-depth profile and personal essay.)

A Hawaiian style dinner, catered by Hilo's popular Don's Grill, was enjoyed before the formal program. Dr. Ma observed, "What struck me the most when seeing the students together with their families was how much they had entrusted to our CoP. They trusted us to take care of their sons, daughters, and significant others and to train them as pharmacists."

"In 2007 we were a small group in one office building and two borrowed classrooms," she recalled. "The privilege of training these students really hit home."

After Dr. Ma's address, the class announced two class gifts, a tradition begun in order for each class to give back to the College of Pharmacy 'ohana.

Class President Jessica Toyama introduced the gifts. "Our class pulled together funds to create this scholarship through the UH Foundation," she said.

The award was increased due to a "wonderful donation by Judith Fox-Goldstein, UH Hilo Conference Center Director. It was her request that her gift be added to the current recipient's award."

Fox-Goldstein offered this donation in memory of



*In fulfilling this vow: I will consider the welfare of humanity  
and relief of suffering my primary concerns.*

her late son, Daniel Gideon Fox, who was a UH Hilo student with a 4.0 GPA. "He was devoted to excellence and even more so," said Fox-Goldstein, "to kindness."

Daniel Hu, a member of the Class of 2012, was selected by the CoP Awards Committee to receive the CoP Inaugural Class of 2011 Scholarship. He demonstrated both academic merit and community service to promote the spirit of the CoP.

Mr. Hu was gracious in accepting this scholarship, and after expressing his gratitude, he complimented his predecessors.

"Wow, look at yourselves, inaugural class," he said. "Look at all you've been through and accomplished. You're leaving behind big shoes to fill. The rest of us will try very hard to follow your footsteps. Thank you for providing us with guidance and inspiration. Thank you for giving us an example of what it means to have perseverance and attain excellence."

Also presented to the College was an enlarged portrait of the inaugural class, framed in koa wood, to be displayed in the permanent CoP building.



(Above) Curtis Start, Class Delegate, and Adrienne Au, Class Vice President, present the Class of 2011 Gift; (top right) Daniel Hu accepts Class of 2011 Scholarship Gift; (middle) CoP graduate Amber Schwarz with her newborn son; (below) Trenton Teruya, Class Historian, and Curtis Start led the group in a traditional Japanese banzai toast as a Grand Finale to a celebratory evening. Banzai means "10,000 years," and a banzai toast offers congratulations and wishes for long life.

*I will apply my knowledge, experience, and skills to the best of my ability to assure optimal  
outcomes for my patients.*

## And the Winners Are...



Dr. Lara Gomez, Dr. Susan Eade Parson, Dean John M. Pezzuto, and Dr. Kara Izumi at the CoP Graduation Celebration Dinner

A highlight of this year's dinner came with the announcement of the Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experiences (APPE) Preceptors of the Year.

Kara Izumi, preceptor for Surgical Intensive Care Unit and Trauma student rotations, and Susan Eade Parson, preceptor currently on her second tour of duty at Tripler Army Medical Center, received this year's honors.

Dr. Izumi has been a clinical pharmacist at Queen's Medical Center in Honolulu for the past five years. She completed her general pharmacy practice residency at the University of Arizona Medical Center in Tucson, and she graduated from Washington State University's College of Pharmacy.

Dr. Parson, currently on her second tour of duty at Tripler Army Medical Center, became BCPS certified in 2004. She has worked for hospitals in Dallas, New York and Texas. She graduated from the University of Houston in 1993 with a B.S. Pharmacy, and later returned to school to obtain a PharmD from Creighton University in 2003.

APPE for the fourth-year students begins in the summer after their third year and includes a minimum of 1440 hours of pharmacy experiences. Students participate in six different types of rotations, including hospital practice, acute medicine, ambulatory care clinic, and retail practice.



Dr. André and Mary Jane Bachmann



Dr. Kenneth Morris and Dr. Anthony D. Wright



Celebrations included good friends, good food, and heartfelt aloha.



Dr. Edward Fisher  
Master of Ceremonies



Dr. Robert Borris prepares to give a traditional Hawaiian lei to a graduating student.

*Traditional Hawaiian lei were given to graduating class members attending the celebration. Lei are offered as a symbol of aloha and are often presented at celebrations for someone who is leaving. The CoP honored the first graduates with these Hawaiian garlands: for those who would be crossing the wide Pacific, that they would feel missed and valued; and for those who stay in the islands, that they would know how they are appreciated and admired for their choices.*

*I will respect and protect all personal and health information entrusted to me.*



*"Tomorrow, at about 10:30 am, you will see me at the podium, and I will say "Will the candidates for the Doctor of Pharmacy please rise." Let's practice that right now and see what happens. Graduate, are you ready? Will the candidates for the Doctor of Pharmacy please rise? [candidates rise] Audience, what do you do now? [loud applause] Now think what is going to happen with 5000 people. God bless you. You will always have our deepest aloha."*

*-- the closing remarks of Dean John M. Pezzuto*

*I will accept the lifelong obligation to improve my professional knowledge and competence.*

# *Will the First Graduates of the UH Hilo College of Pharmacy Please Stand*

*May 14, 2011*



Within minutes the anticipation will be over: they will be graduates.



Dean John M. Pezzuto takes a moment to reflect on his students' success

*I will hold myself and my colleagues to the highest principles of our profession's moral, ethical and legal conduct.*

Judith Fox-Goldstein, CoP scholarship donor and UH Hilo Conference Center Director, and Dean John M. Pezzuto, celebrate the first CoP graduation



The olive velvet fabric on the graduates' hood indicates their discipline: pharmacy.



*"Joy in looking and comprehending is nature's most beautiful gift."  
-- Albert Einstein*



*I will embrace and advocate changes that improve patient care.*



# Aloha! A Hui Hou!



*"Next week, the first class of 84 students will receive their Doctor of Pharmacy degree, and I fully expect that they will soon be providing outstanding care throughout the State of Hawaii, the Pacific Basin Region, and particularly, on our Neighbor Islands."*

*Senator Daniel Inouye, in a May 2011 letter to the Board of Directors of the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education*

*I will utilize my knowledge, skills, experiences, and values to prepare the next generation of pharmacists.*

*"As we celebrate this inaugural class, I'd like to acknowledge Dean John Pezzuto, Dr. Pat DeLeon, Dr. Jerry Johnson, and Dr. Ronald Taniguchi, the community pharmacists and advisory groups, faculty, students, and the general community for their vision and support of this bold idea. Through perseverance and working together, we've done the impossible. Now we see the fruits of our labor. Just look at this class: the best and the brightest, the most intelligent and caring people, ready to contribute to the health of our citizenry. Our dream has come true! To the 2011 graduates, the founding class of UH Hilo's College of Pharmacy: you are our pride. We all look forward to seeing you go out and do good work in the world."*

*Dr. Rose Tseng, PhD, Chancellor Emerita and Professor*

*I take these vows voluntarily with the full realization of the responsibility with which I am entrusted by the public.*



## Faculty Help Students Test Their Limits One More Time

BY MAGGIE MORRIS

College of Pharmacy faculty members dedicated three days of the week before commencement to preparing students for the NAPLEX exam. The North American Pharmacist Licensure Examination (NAPLEX) is the qualifying exam for licensed pharmacists.

Every state has its own Board of Pharmacy that dictates requirements, and each requires a pharmacist to successfully complete the NAPLEX exam. The test is designed to determine whether candidates have the knowledge, judgment, and skills they are expected to



Associate Dean  
Edward Fisher

demonstrate as an entry-level pharmacist.

“There are many requirements to become a licensed pharmacist, but the NAPLEX is the test that pulls it all together,” said Associate Dean Edward Fisher. “Our students are very test savvy, having taken hundreds of tests throughout four years of intense learning and preparing for the rewarding career of a pharmacist.

This was a review of what to expect in this next step toward getting their license.”

The CoP curriculum contains everything students need to pass the exam, he said, but taking the review can point out areas to focus on before sitting for the four-hour and fifteen minutes exam. Students are assessed in three areas of competency: Pharmacotherapy, Safe and Accurate Preparation and Dispensing of Medications, and Provide Health Care Information that Promotes Public Health.

Dr. Fisher was joined in the instruction by Dr. Elmer Gentry, Interim Associate Dean and Chair, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences for the Chicago State University College of Pharmacy; and UH Hilo CoP faculty Dr. Robert Borris, Associate Dean for Research; Dr. Ron Taniguchi, Interim Department Chair, Department of Pharmacy Practice and Director of Community Partnerships; Dr. Candice Tan, Assistant Professor, Pharmacy Practice; Dr. Caitrin Vordtriede, Clinical Track Faculty; and Dr. Ben Chavez, Assistant Professor, Pharmacy Practice.

The first two days packed in eight hours of the intensive review, and the third day held six hours of review. Topics included hypertension, hyperlipidemia, angina, chronic heart failure, diuretics, diabetes, antibiotics/antivirals, gout, asthma, cancer, opioids, gastroesophageal reflux disease, peptic ulcer disease, arrhythmia, over-the-counter products, psychology, infectious disease and pharmacy calculations. Students also were tutored in federal- and state-specific laws so they would be prepared to pass the Multistate Pharmacy Jurisprudence Examination (MPJE) portion of the exam.

“The students were engaged, and you could tell they were intent on getting the most out of the review courses,” Dr. Fisher said. “It was a lot of information to take in. We are extremely grateful to Safeway for donating coffee and donuts one day to help us all get through it.”



Danita Henley  
PharmD

Danita Henley, a new PharmD from the Class of 2011, said she thought the students were provided with a well-rounded group of courses.

“The best part about the review course was the way the material was presented,” Dr. Henley said. “It was scaled down to bits of information that were very concise. This is exactly how I needed to prepare for taking the NAPLEX.”

Dr. Henley, who was hired to work on the new CoP Psychopharmacology program, also is a member of a committee that was formed to evaluate the success of the NAPLEX review. The committee, which includes a current fourth-year student and clinical faculty, will meet before the class of 2012 takes the test next year to recommend improvements.

“My five years of experience providing NAPLEX reviews across the country have shown me what to cover, but we want to make sure we stay current and provide the best, most informed review every year,” Dr. Fisher said.

## CoP Graduates are Employed in *Hawai'i*, the *Redwood Forest*, and near the *Gulf Stream Waters*

BY MAGGIE MORRIS

College of Pharmacy alumni from the University of Hawaii at Hilo have been hired for jobs that require a PharmD degree in 16 states as well as Guam and Washington D.C. at various retail chains, community pharmacies and hospitals. More than a third of the graduates who found work so far accepted jobs that allow them to stay in Hawaii.

Upon their graduation in May, 66 percent of the recent graduates reported that they have obtained a job or were working in a paid residency. The average salary for graduates working full-time but not in a residency program is \$117,000.

“These numbers show the breadth of impact our inaugural graduates are already making since graduating just three months ago,” Dean John Pezzuto said. “Their remarkable success at securing jobs before taking the exam for licensure confirms that these new pharmacists have hit the ground running and will continue to make us proud.”

With a 95 percent response rate, 80 out of 84 graduating PharmD's responded to the Graduating Student Surveys. They answered questions about what they will be doing after graduation and were asked how they thought CoP did in preparing them for a career in pharmacy.

Inaugural CoP alumni will be working in: Alaska, Arizona, California, Connecticut, Florida, Guam, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Missouri, New Mexico, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Washington DC, and Wisconsin.

They accepted jobs at the Children's National

Medical Center, CVS, Fred Myer, GE Nuclear, Guam Memorial Hospital, Heartland Regional Medical Center, Kaiser Permanente, Kapiolani Medical Center for Women and Children, K-VAT Food City, Menehune Pharmacy, Marsh, Mina Pharmacy, Palos Community Hospital, Roe RX, Safeway, Seattle Children's Hospital, Target, University of Hawaii Hilo College of Pharmacy Walgreens and Wal-Mart.

The graduates also are working in several highly competitive pharmacy residency positions throughout the nation in order to gain intensive training in health care settings. Residencies are often a requirement for employment in hospital pharmacy practice or as a faculty member at a pharmacy school. Locations include the Phoenix Indian Medical Center and the Banner Baywood Medical Center and Heart Hospital in Arizona; UH Hilo College of Pharmacy in Hawaii; Intermountain Healthcare in Utah; and Palos Community Hospital and Edward Hines Jr. VA Hospital in Illinois.

“Gathering information on our graduates is a very important part of the development of our college and the accreditation process,” said Liz Heffernan, Director of Student Services, whose office sent out the AACP Graduating Student Survey and the Supplemental Graduating Student Survey. Assessment Coordinator Paula Zeszotarski helped create the survey and analyze the data.

Future plans for compiling data include sending an Alumni Survey to CoP's graduates in the summer of 2012. “Their feedback will help us to improve our programs and develop into one of the top Colleges of Pharmacy in the nation,” Heffernan said.

### Preliminary survey results also found:

24 percent of the class applied for the residency match program

95 percent of those who applied received at least one interview

53 percent of those who applied received a residency job offer.

59 percent of the respondents were Hawaii residents for tuition purposes during the spring 2011 semester

60 percent of these Hawaii resident respondents stated they had either secured employment in a job that required a PharmD or were working in a paid residency

## Two CoP Graduates Accept Pharmacy Residencies for Further Training in Health Care Settings

BY MAGGIE MORRIS

Working on a pharmacy residency is one of the paths available to graduates with a PharmD degree. Pharmacy residencies provide intensive training in health care settings and are often a requirement for employment in hospital pharmacy practice or as a faculty member at a pharmacy school.

### Dr. Rovigel "Jill" Gelviro

Dr. Rovigel "Jill" Gelviro, from Pennsylvania, accepted a residency at the Phoenix Indian Medical Center in Phoenix. Her residency provides experience in all areas of hospital pharmacy including acute medicine and ambulatory care.

She was granted seven out of seven interviews, and received two early commitment offers for residency, both at the top of her list. She said it wasn't easy scheduling seven interviews during rotations.

"I found the faculty open to my many questions about the interview process," Dr. Gelviro said. "Dr. Batz, Dr. Gomez and Dr. Ma are great supporters of



Dr. Rovigel "Jill" Gelviro with a patient at a recent Health Fair

my endeavors. I greatly appreciate the guidance they provided throughout the process."

Dr. Gelviro said she is attracted to IHS/PHS because of her previous work with the Department of Homeland Security/Federal Emergency Management Agency in Washington, D.C. She was a pharmacy technician and member of medical manpower teams in the US Air Force, and served in Texas, Mississippi, Guam, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia and Iraq.

"I had the opportunity to work with several Public Health Service officers, who spoke about the great opportunities available for health professionals in the

Commissioned Corps," she said. "I would have the chance to provide healthcare services to underserved populations as well as to provide medical response during national and international disasters."

When she puts on a military uniform again, it will be not as an enlisted member but as a commissioned officer. She will resume her military time in service and have the chance to retire in 11 years.

"I am truly excited about the opportunities that lie ahead," Dr. Gelviro said. "Although, I was sad to leave Hawaii, I hope I will have the opportunity to return someday to enrich the community with what I have learned and experienced on the mainland. I am thankful to the UHH-CoP for giving me the foundation to what looks like a bright future."

### Dr. Cherie Chu

Cherie Chu, from Honolulu, accepted a job as a pharmacy resident at Banner Baywood Medical Center and Heart Hospital in Mesa, Arizona. Her residency will be focused on acute care.

"I was attracted to this residency because of the staff. Also the type of rotation choices they had matched my interests in critical care," said Dr. Chu. She also is considering their second-year residency in cardiology.

Dr. Chu researched residencies by attending the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) midyear conference and asking other residents about their experiences with the interview and application process.

"The hardest part of the transition was and is the licensing process," she said. "Having to apply to take boards in various states is a chore, and trying to get all the necessary paperwork in to the various states is tedious work. Then there is trying to prepare for the NAPLEX and MPJE."

Both Drs. Rovigel and Chu say they miss their classmates because, as the inaugural group of PharmD students at UH Hilo, they were a tight group. They manage to keep in touch via phone, e-mail or Facebook.

"It's sad not to see them everyday, but I still keep in touch with my classmates," Dr. Chu said. "Currently I have two other co-residents at my institution, so the support from others who are in the same boat as I am is there for me."

## UH Hilo College of Pharmacy Names Spring 2011 Dean's List



*The following University of Hawaii at Hilo College of Pharmacy students achieved academic excellence during the 2011 Spring Semester by attaining a grade-point average of 3.50 or greater in full-time coursework.*

**Class of 2012:** Lauren Brunke, Candice Carbaugh, Irene Chaisri, Lawrence Chan, Bernie Cheng, Megan Ching, Catherine Fadrowsky, Jenna Fujimoto, RaeAnne Fuller, Carol Lynn Goo, Richelle Hirata, Wendy Yamasaki-Herring, Susan Kang, Daralyn Kawamoto, Paul Kim, Christine Knecht, Kari Kurihara, Amber Laird, Linh Lieu, Angelina Lovell, Tanya Moore, Brian Niimi, Van-Quynh Phan, Roseann Svec, Anthony Thai, Henry Tran, Tammy Tran, Sally Van, Megan Venegas, Jessie Wong, Allison Yamashiro, Marina Yeh

**Class of 2013:** Kurt Adkins, Gina Chan, William Engen, Ryan Gaspar, Christopher Kamei, Margaret Kang, Brendan Katahara, Todd Kitamori, Alison Kobayashi, Marcus Kouma, Aaron Lani, Diem Le, Victor Lin, Cheryl Lopez, Tina Marrie McDonald, Mathew Mullahy, Ahmad Musheinessh, Jason Okazaki, Chanel Opunui, Steven Osgood, Kaylene Peric, Mylan Phan, Tyler Prescott, Rosa Quan, Matthew Sasaki, Prabu Segaran, Michael Tsuji, Reece Uyeno, Irving Veilleux, Melissa Yoneda, Modaniet Young, May Yu

**Class of 2014:** Miho Aoki, Maurina Bartlett, Li Chen, Jeffrey Christley, Joanne Daproza, Jizan-Anne Evangelista, John Fujita, Hai Huang, Rachel Jardin, Jaymie Kanda, Mariko Katagiri, Daniel Kim, Kyle Kumashiro, Andy-Long Le, Yan Feng Lin, Janine Masri, Janelle Matsukawa, Tiffany Mizo, Tracy Nakama, Kenneth Navarrete, Steven Nishimoto, John Opoku-Ansah, Keri Oyadomari, Andrew Reinhart, Behnam Rostami, Jed Sana, Caroline Sousa, Stacie Takahashi, Koon Ting, Hana Tran, Christopher Tsue, Ann Txakeeyang, Dayna Michelle Wong, James Yi





**ALUMNI CORNER**

**D**ear Alumni and Friends:

I offer my congratulations to the pharmacists who are graduates of the UHH College of Pharmacy Inaugural Class of 2011 and invite all to become members of the UHH CoP Alumni Chapter. I want to emphasize that it is never too early to get involved. Many graduates wait until much later in their careers to play a role in the alumni association. The impact that recent UHH CoP graduates can have on prospective and current students is significant. The UHH CoP Alumni Chapter promotes fellowship among members of the association, the pharmacy profession, pharmacy students, and members of all recognized allied health care professions.

To the entering first year pharmacy students, congratulations and welcome to the UHH College of Pharmacy. Over the next four years, the College of Pharmacy will help you develop skills and obtain the knowledge that you will need to become a valuable member of the health care team. During this time, you will be challenged academically. You will also have the opportunity to develop relationships with those around you and network with pharmacy leaders and health care specialists in the community.

Every great profession passes on its core principles through mentorship, which is the key to building and sustaining our profession. I invite all alumni to increase your participation by getting involved in the UHH CoP Alumni Chapter. Your input on the board or on one of

its committees would be indispensable in helping us to accomplish our mission.

It is emphasized that one does not have to be a graduate of the University of Hawaii to be a friend and member of the UHH College Alumni Chapter. By becoming a member, you will have the opportunity to reunite with your classmates, network with pharmacists in the community, and of course interact with your former faculty members. I encourage all friends of the UHH CoP to become members of the UHH CoP Alumni Chapter.

Pharmacy alumni are an integral component of the College of Pharmacy's success. Their philanthropic support is also essential to maintaining the outstanding education and clinical preparation that the College of Pharmacy provides to current students.

For those of you who are members, I thank you for your commitment, support and dedication. For those who have not yet joined us, we look forward to your support. I eagerly anticipate a year of service as your president. Please join with me to make it a memorable year for the UHH College of Pharmacy Alumni Chapter. You have the unique opportunity this year to become a charter member of the CoP Alumni Association.

Please contact us if you would like to attend an alumni meeting, assist with alumni or UHH CoP activities, contact classmates, share information or simply ask a question. We look forward to connecting with you. Each alumnus is an important member of our organization and our pharmacy community.



**Dr. Elwin Goo  
President**



Officers and members of the CoP Alumni Chapter Board of Directors brainstorm at the first official meeting in CoP facilities at the Gold Bond Building in Honolulu. From left to right: Mok Chong, Ronald Taniguchi, Kris Nishimura, Sheri Tokumar, Roy Goo (vice president); Ronald Okamura, Elwin Goo (president)

## Reflections on the First Graduating CoP Class

### LETTERS HOME

by Jessica Toyama, Class President, Class of 2011



**A**s I sat on that stage, awaiting my turn to give my student address on behalf of the inaugural class to all of Hilo, I looked out into the sea of faces before me. In the first few rows, I knew them all. I knew each of their names, their hometowns, and how they each contributed in their own unique way to the establishment of our college. They looked stunning in their graduation regalia. I was overcome with emotion at that moment, and words cannot express how extremely proud I felt for all they've endured, all they've accomplished, and all their amazing potential.

It's hard to believe that just four years ago, we entered pharmacy school as the first class. At that time, the UH Hilo College of Pharmacy was just a name with no location. Our first-year lectures were held late in the afternoon since we utilized the only two undergraduate classrooms available on the main UH Hilo campus that were large enough to accommodate our class of 90 students (thank you, College of Arts and Sciences).

We did not have a student government or upperclassmen to seek for guidance; all we had was each other. Knowing that our futures were in the hands of less than 10 faculty and uncertain if the college would become accredited, we felt vulnerable.

But the fact that we entered this program not knowing what lay before us said a lot about our character: we were risk takers. I think this explains why we've accomplished the unimaginable over the next few years. As the inaugural class, we were faced with the task and responsibility of defining our college and creating traditions for future generations. We eagerly established a number of national pharmacy organiza-

tion student chapters: American Pharmacists Association, American Society of Health-System Pharmacists, Phi Delta Chi, and the National Community Pharmacists Association, in addition to forming a student government.

We embraced the importance of giving back to the community and thus participated in the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life, American Heart Association's Heart Walk, and the Merrie Monarch Parade. We organized various health fairs throughout Hilo and the state, and held our first annual Blood Drive on the UH Hilo campus. We spoke with Big Island legislators and submitted written testimony to the Hawaii State House and Senate to stress the importance of our college and the positive impact we will have on the future of health care in Hawaii.

We did not stop there. We wanted to ensure that our legacy would live on far past our graduation. As our class gift to the college, we established the College of Pharmacy Inaugural Class of 2011 Scholarship Fund, with the goal of one day making it an endowed scholarship. Of course, we also presented Dean Pezzuto with an enlarged class photo, framed in koa wood, to be displayed in the permanent CoP building so that we would never be forgotten!

Though we've achieved many milestones over the years, we know that none of this would be possible without the tremendous outpouring of support from our friends and families, the community, the college faculty and staff, and especially Dean and Mrs. Pezzuto.

My classmates were the pioneers of the first College of Pharmacy in Hawaii. From day one, we were absolutely unstoppable. Now through our newly established UH Alumni Association College of Pharmacy Chapter, our Pharmacy 'ohana will remain strong, and we will continue to give back to the College and the community. We've only just begun.



Jessica Toyama addresses the commencement audience

# Kāwili Lā`au

College of Pharmacy

University of Hawai`i at Hilo

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